

tude, made ready to welcome the boat that would be sent to save them. But this ship also drove on, and left these men staring their unutterable surprise and dismay into each other's ashen faces. Late in the day still another ship came up out of the distance, but the men noted with a pang that her course was one which would not bring her nearer. Their remnant of life was nearly spent; their lips and tongues were swollen, parched, cracked with eight days' thirst; their bodies starved; and here was their last chance gliding relentlessly from them; they would not be alive when the next sun rose. For a day or two past the men had lost their voices, but now Captain Rounceville whispered, "Let us pray." The Portuguese patted him on the shoulder in sign of deep approval. All knelt at the base of the oar that was waving the signal-coat aloft, and bowed their heads. The sea was tossing; the sun rested, a red, rayless disk, on the sea-line in the west. When the men presently raised their heads they would have roared a hallelujah if they had had a voice; the ship's sails lay wrinkled and flapping against her masts, she was going about! Here was a rescue at last, and in the very last instant of time that was left for it. No, not rescue yet—only the imminent prospect of it. The red disk sank under the sea and darkness blotted out the ship. By and by came a pleasant sound—oars moving in a boat's row-locks. Nearer it came, and nearer, within thirty steps, but nothing visible. Then a deep voice: "Hol-lo?" The castaways could not answer, their swollen tongues refused voice. The boat skirted around and round the raft, started away—the agony of it!—returned, rested the oars, close at hand, listening, no doubt. The deep voice again: "Hol-lo! Where are ye, ship-mates?" Captain Rounceville whispered to his men, saying: "Whisper your best, boys! now—all at once!" So they sent out an eightfold whisper in hoarse concert: "Here!" There was life in it if it succeeded; death, if it failed. After that supreme moment Captain Rounceville was conscious of nothing until he came to himself on board the saving ship. Said the reverend, concluding:

"There was one little moment of time in which that raft could be visible from the ship, and only one. If that one little fleeting moment had passed unfruitful, those men's doom was sealed. As close as that does God shave events foreordained from the beginning of the world. When the sun reached the water's edge that day, the captain of that ship was sitting on deck reading his prayer-book. The book fell; he stooped to pick it up, and happened to glance at the sun. In that instant that far-off raft appeared for a second against the red disk, its needle-like oar and diminutive signal cut sharp and black against the bright surface, and in the next instant was thrust away into the dusk again. But that ship, that captain, and that pregnant instant had had, their work appointed for them in the dawn of time and could not fail of the performance. The chronometer of God never errs!"

There was deep, thoughtful silence for some moments. Then the grave, pale young man said:

"What is the chronometer of God?"

The following epitaph appears on a tombstone in Connecticut: "Here lies the body of Jonathan Richardson, who never sacrificed his reason at the altar of superstition's god, and who never believed that Jonah swallowed a whale."

"IT WAS ALL A HOAGS."—The bloodthirsty duelists, Sippel and Linnemann, were arraigned in the Police Court this morning, and the whole affair found to be a joke on Sippel. Gaskin, the gigantic Teuton whose humorous brain originated the job, mounted the stand, and in fearfully mutilated English told all about it. "It was all tam foolishness, Shudge; nothing but a hoags." "A which?" said the prosecuting attorney. "A hoags; some chokes. Ve was all trinkin peer in der saloon, und ve vos dinkin off ve could kit dem doo fellers to fide a dool, yv ve would kit a ride out in a nice vagon und haf some fun. I vent to a putcher und got a liddle pladder und filled it mit plud, und Linnemann vas goin to preak it ven he got shot, und Sippel would dink he vos murdered him. Dot vos all, so helb me Moses!"—*San Francisco Post.*

An old rail-splitter in Indiana put the quietus upon a young man who chafed him upon his bald head, in these words: "Young man, when my head gets as soft as yours, I can raise hair to sell."

"Do you drink?" said one of the ladies of the Women's Christian Temperance Union to Weber, the bookbinder, when he went with a rummy breath to the ladies to deliver some of his work. "Vell, I don't care oph I takes a leetle," said the good-natured German, misunderstanding the question of surprise for an invitation.

The Bounty Act.

THE BILL EQUALIZING THE BOUNTIES OF SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN THE LATE WAR FOR THE UNION.

A MEASURE THAT EVERY SOLDIER AND EVERY SOLDIER'S FRIEND IS INTERESTED IN MAKING A LAW.

The following is the bill equalizing bounties, as it passed the House of Representatives of the last Congress:

An act to equalize the bounties of soldiers who served in the late war for the Union.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be allowed and paid to each and every non-commissioned officer, musician, artificer, wagoner, and private soldier, sailor, and marine, including those borne upon the rolls as slaves and Indians, who faithfully served as such in the military service of the United States, who have been honorably discharged from such service, the sum of eight and one-third dollars a month for all the time which such non-commissioned officer, musician, artificer, wagoner, and private soldier, sailor, and marine actually so served, between the twelfth day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, and the ninth day of May, eighteen hundred and sixty-five. And the provisions of this act shall extend to all soldiers who were mustered into the service of the United States and were subsisted, clothed, and paid by the Government of the United States.

SEC. 2. That in case of the death, either before or after the passage of this act, of any such non-commissioned officer, musician, artificer, wagoner, or private soldier, sailor, or marine, the allowance and payment shall be made to his widow, if she has not remarried, or if there be no widow, or she has remarried, then to the minor child or children of such deceased non-commissioned officer, musician, artificer, wagoner, or private soldier, sailor, or marine.

SEC. 3. That in computing and ascertaining the bounty to be paid to any non-commissioned officer, musician, artificer, wagoner, or private soldier, sailor, or marine, or to his proper representatives under the provisions of this act, there shall be deducted therefrom any and all bounties already paid under the provisions of the United States laws.

SEC. 4. That no bounty under the provisions of this act shall be paid to or on account of any soldier who served as a substitute in the army, or who was a captured prisoner of war at the time of his enlistment, nor to any one who was discharged, on his own application or request, for other cause than disability incurred in the service, prior to the nineteenth day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, unless such discharge was obtained with a view to re-enlistment, or to accept promotion in the military or naval service of the United States, or to be transferred from one branch of the military service to another, and such person did actually so re-enlist, or accept promotion, or was so transferred; and no bounty shall be paid to any soldier discharged on the application or at the request of parents, guardians, or other persons, or on the ground of minority.

SEC. 5. That every petition or application for bounty made under the provisions of this act shall disclose and state specifically, under oath and under the pains and penalties of perjury, what amount of bounty has been paid under the provisions of any United States laws to the non-commissioned officer, musician, artificer, wagoner, or private soldier, sailor, or marine, by whom or by whose representative the claim is made.

SEC. 6. That any attorney or agent who shall receive from any claimant a sum greater than ten dollars for the prosecution of any claim under the provisions of this act, upon conviction thereof, shall pay a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars, or imprisonment for a term not less than one year, or both, as the court or jury may adjudge, and shall forever thereafter be excluded from prosecuting claims of any nature whatsoever against the Government of the United States.

SEC. 7. That it shall not be lawful for any soldier to transfer, assign, barter, or sell his discharge, final statement, descriptive-list, or other paper, for the purpose of transferring, assigning, bartering, or selling any interest in any bounty under the provisions of this act. And all such transfers, assignments, barterings, or sales heretofore made are hereby declared null and void, as to any rights intended to be so conveyed by any such soldier.

SEC. 8. That in any case where a person entitled to receive payment of bounty under the provisions of this act shall make application therefor, or where such application shall be made by the proper representative of such person, being deceased, and the discharge of such person has been lost, it shall be competent for the accounting officers to receive, in lieu of the actual production of such discharge, proof of the actual loss of the same, and secondary proof of its issue and contents, together with proof of the identity of the claimant or person deceased, under such rules defining the character and form of the evidence as the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe.

SEC. 9. That no adjustment or payment of any claim of any non-commissioned officer, musician, artificer, wagoner, or private soldier, sailor, or marine, or his proper representative, under the provisions of this act, shall be made, unless the application be filed within five years from the passage of the same.

Passed the House of Representatives June 20, 1876.

Attest: GEO. M. ADAMS, Clerk.

The following is the report of the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives, presented by General Cook, of Georgia, an ex-Confederate soldier, accompanying the bill for the equalization of bounties to soldiers who served in the late war for the Union:

REPORT.

[To accompany bill H. R. 53.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom have been referred sundry bills and many petitions, numerous signed, asking for an equalization of bounties to Union soldiers in the late war, have fully considered the same, and beg leave to report:

That many of these bills are identical in their provisions, and in the opinion of the Committee, accomplish fully the

end sought to be obtained. They therefore report, with a recommendation that it do pass, bill H. R. 53, as a substitute for all the others, and as an answer to the prayers of the petitioners.

In making this recommendation the Committee beg leave to add that the equalization of bounties is eminently proper and just, and a denial of it operates as a great hardship upon thousands who served their country with great fidelity. Gross inequality of compensation for services rendered has fallen heavily upon several classes, viz, upon those who were first to respond to the call of duty; those who were at any time honorably discharged from service before the expiration of their term of enlistment; and upon those whose enlistment was intermediate between calls for troops.

Among many others, bounties have been refused—in such as the following: Where, by reason of disability contracted in the line of duty, the soldiers were prevented from serving out their full term of enlistment, or where they were promoted during their terms; where, by failure of the mustering officer correctly to date their enlistment, and where in some of the States the enlistment was for a period less than twelve months; and where, though in service at the date of a particular call, they were not mustered in until afterward. That such discriminations are unjust is manifest, and should be corrected, and it rests with Congress to furnish a remedy. The rule of construction adopted by the Department, perhaps, as a question of law, cannot be denied, that no matter for what cause the soldier failed to serve out his full term of enlistment, a loss of bounty was the consequence. The object of the bill reported by the Committee is to relieve against this hardship, and equalize the benefits of the bounty system, by giving to the soldiers who were honorably discharged, bounty at the rate of \$100 per annum, which is evidently the object of the laws providing bounties for the period actually served, without reference to the term of enlistment.

It is true that the embarrassed financial condition of the country, and the paralysis in business, may well cause Representatives to reflect seriously upon all measures involving large appropriations of money, but this is not a sufficient argument against the passage of this bill. The Government, in respect to these bounties, is a debtor; and while she may fairly examine into the justice of particular cases, yet duty and good faith require her to pay them. The Government is better able to pay these just demands than those entitled thereto are to lie out of them. All of which is respectfully submitted.

The late President Fane's prayer on the Franco-German war, is now appropriate. He lifted up his voice and said: "O Lord, how long? how long? Bring this war to a speedy close. O Lord, they go on killing women and children, and burning villages; and they call this civil warfare. O Lord, did you ever hear of anything so ridiculous?"

A young lady sent a poem to a British newspaper, entitled "I cannot make him smile." The editor ventured to express an opinion that she would have succeeded had she shown him the poem.

There is a tempest in a teapot at Salt Lake City, caused by a public knowledge of the fact that John W. Young intends to be sealed to a Miss Cobb, a voluptuous-looking girl of sixteen, a stepdaughter of his father, and granddaughter of Mrs. Augustus L. Cobb, one of Brigham's mistresses, known in Mormondom as the woman who desired to be sealed to Jesus Christ. The contemplated ceremony has caused John W. Young's wife to desert him and return to her father, a Mr. Canfield, who is a railroad engineer, living in Philadelphia.

Secretary Thompson says his wife greatly enjoyed the jokes made about him when he was appointed Secretary of the Navy, until one was at last made at her own expense. "You know," he explained, "that the New Orleans Times told a story that when Mrs. Thompson heard of my appointment she said: 'The idea of making my husband Secretary of the Navy! Why, Dick can't swim.' Could anything be more absurd? If there is any one thing that I can do better than another, it is swimming. I have always been a capital swimmer."

John Brougham, the actor, tells, in his peculiar vein of humor, of a real-estate speculation he once had in Chicago. He purchased, before the war, about twenty acres of land there, at \$600 an acre. During his absence in Europe at the time of the war, he was strongly advised by a friend to sell. He did so, through his agent, realizing \$20,000 for the property. On his return home, and while en route for San Francisco, he stopped over at the Sherman House, when one of the Gage Brothers incidentally asked about the property. "Why," replied Brougham, "I sold it eight years ago." "The devil!" said Gage, looking astonished; "for how much?" "Twenty thousand dollars." "Why, man, it's worth \$200,000 to-day, and in five years it will be worth half a million." "Ah, me," remarked the gay old actor, "if I had quarreled with misfortune, I should have been dead long ago."

"Deeds are the pulse of time, his beating life,
And righteous or unrighteous, being done,
Must throb in after-throbs till time itself
Be laid in stillness, and the universe
Quiver and breathe upon no mirror more."